

Message Text

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42

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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P R 071058Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA BAHRAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY 1635

INFO AMEMBASSY KUWAIT KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IRAN

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAMA 0923

EXDIS

KUWAIT PASS MUSCAT AND DOHA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : PFOR, BA

SUBJECT : ARAB SUMMIT: VIEW FROM THE CABOOSE

1. UPON RETURN FROM POST-SUMMIT TRAVELS BAHRAIN'S FOREIGN MINISTER GAVE ME NOVEMBER 6 GENERALLY UPBEAT INTERPRETATION RESULTS OF ARAB SUMMIT. ALTHOUGH GOB PRIOR TO SUMMIT HAD APPEARED QUITE CONCERNED ABOUT HUSSEIN'S FATE AT MEETING, FOREIGN MINISTER'S IMPRESSION WAS THAT EVENTS IN RABAT HAVE LEFT MUCH HEALTHIER LONG-TERM SITUATION VIS-A-VIS BOTH HUSSEIN'S RELATIONS WITH PALESTINIANS AND OVERALL ARAB RELATIONS WITH PALESTINIANS.

2. HE CAME AWAY WITH TWO SIGNIFICANT IMPRESSIONS:
A) EVEN ASAD WAS TALKING PEACE AND FOR SYRIANS TO BE TALKING PEACE RATHER THAN WAR AMONG OTHER ARABS IS AN HISTORIC CHANGE; AND B) CONSISTENT CORRIDOR THEME OF ARAB DELEGATES WAS IMPORTANCE GREATER U.S. ROLE IN ARAB WORLD AND SOME PERPLEXITY AT WHY U.S. DOES NOT APPEAR TO FULLY APPRECIATE ITS PRESENT OPPORTUNITIES
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AND SEIZE THEM.

3. FOREIGN MINISTER SPOKE MORE IN AMAZEMENT THAN IN ANGER RE HIS PERCEPTION ISRAEL'S REACTION TO SUMMIT, NOTING THAT ISRAEL NOW APPEARED TO HAVE TAKEN THE RIGID POSITION TOWARD MIDDLE EAST PEACE THAT ARABS TOOK AT '67 KHARTOUM SUMMIT. MAIN THRUST OF HIS REMARKS, HOWEVER, WAS THAT ARABS HAVE THE UPPER HAND AND ARE DETERMINED WITH U.S. HELP TO ACHIEVE JUST PEACE IF U.S. CAN ONLY MAKE ISRAEL SEE THE REALITY OF ITS POSITION.
TWINAM

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, SUMMIT MEETINGS, LIBERATION FRONTS, PEACE PLANS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MartinML
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974MANAMA00923
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740320-0896
From: MANAMA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741163/aaaacbnm.tel
Line Count: 72
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MartinML
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14-Aug-2002 by worrelsw>; APPROVED <26 MAR 2003 by MartinML>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: : ARAB SUMMIT: VIEW FROM THE CABOOSE
TAGS: PFOR, BA, JO, XF, PLO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005